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Divorce and Children: The Academic Portion

Divorce is defined as a legal separation of a marriage between two spouses. This out of date version tends to forget that children are most of the time a part of the divorce, and are subject to custody battles all too often. When these children are of school age, it not only has an effect on their social life, but also on their academic life as well. I have heard plenty of teachers discuss divorce with students, but when it comes to academics, teachers believe that children of divorce are just not studying hard enough. With so much going on at what the child now has to call “home”, how are they supposed to find a time to focus on their studies? Divorce spreads throughout all classes and every race: rich or poor, male or female, black or white, divorce has no preference on which family it chooses to affect. This poses the question: how are children of any social class affected by divorce and what toll does this have on their academic grades. A simpler research question that I am using is: how does divorce affect the children involved and their academic success in school?

With the divorce rate approximately fifty-one percent in America, it is obvious that divorce affects many children’s lives. Everyone knows someone whose parents are divorced or have separated parents themselves. I have three best friends whose parents have been separated for a very long time. Three is not enough to determine how much divorce affects children’s academic success, so I will be taking a broader look by conducting secondary research using articles and journals that have studied children of divorce and the impact on their school grades.

Whether we like it or not, divorce has become a big part of many cultures in the world. Since divorce knows no bounds, ranging from working class families to millionaires, everyone can take a stand in divorce and take a position on how it affects the next generation and future descendants. Teachers and parents alike can use this research to find ways to assist students so that the overwhelming impact of divorce does not interfere with their academic success. The government may also find ways to provide children of divorce with counseling or programs to assist them, if the results show that divorce has a negative impact on a child’s grades. On the other hand, if divorce appears to benefit a child’s grade, then counseling sessions can still be made to help deal with the emotional or physical toll the child is suffering through the divorce.

Academic success can be defined in a variety of ways within one culture, let alone the entire cultures of the world. This study of children of divorce will focus solely on the relationship between the divorce rate and children’s academic success in the United States of America. In this research proposal academic success of a child of divorce will be compared to the grade point averages of American students who are not a product of divorce. It is also assumed in this research that children of single mothers or fathers will fall under the category of children of divorce. If it is possible to look specifically at only children with married parents and children with divorced parents then only that research will be conducted.

Divorce is never an easy subject for parents to bring up and then explain to a child, whether a friend has shared their experience, or it has been played on a Lifetime movie, the children become affected by the separation of their parents. One has to wonder if this child is of grade school level, how does this affect their academic success? This research is to determine whether or not such an impact on a child’s life, can reach as far as the hallways and classrooms of school, and whether or not American society can do anything to shape the outcome.